

responsive to the emotions and physical sensations which make up so much the biggest part of his own world, is well aware of the emotional and physical ties of others, and reacts very early with jealousy, rage, emulation, defiance; all the gamut of emotions which add themselves on to his desire for possession of the mother's body, that first desired source of satisfaction ; that gamut of emotions which makes up the ' (Edipus ' situation."

In this description, Miss Searl gives us an essential key to the young child's problem, namely, that he brings to his experience in the real world enormous intensities of feeling and desire, along with an almost equal degree of actual helplessness to effect such changes in the outer world as will lead to satisfaction of his desires. He is biologically and psychologically dependent upon his parents ; and in the first days, upon his mother. There is nothing the infant can do directly to effect his needed satisfactions. He can only act upon the real persons who must bring about the satisfaction of his desires for him. In the very beginning he is thus not in touch with an objective world of indifferent reality, but with persons. His own feelings are intensely personal, and he apprehends real experience only in personal terms. Thus, whilst the instinctual longings of the child for food and love are enormously strong, his ego is barely existent, and long remains weak and immature. It is his ego, that part of the total psyche which becomes organised round real experience, penetrated through by space and time and causal relations, which later on enables him to temper his own impulses and adapt them to the external world. In the early days of infancy this is, however, hardly developed at all.

It is the child's first experience of instinctual frustration, of unsatisfied longing for food and love in the intervals between satisfaction, which provides the first stimulus to his appreciation of the external world. When he wants the breast and it is not there, he cries out for it and eventually it comes to him. When he wants warmth and comfort and sheltering arms, he can obtain these by his cries directed to those who will bring him what he wants. But some gap between desire and satisfaction there must inevitably be, and since it is persons who bring the child relief, he apprehends his dissatisfactions in personal terms.